

# Press Release

## HARFORD COUNTY GOVERNMENT

### Department of Community Services



#### PUBLIC SAFETY

"Ensuring a Safe  
Harford"

#### EDUCATION

"Preparing Now,  
Building for the Future"

#### EFFICIENCY IN GOVERNMENT

"Governing Smarter"

#### ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

"Growing and Sustaining  
Harford's Prosperity"

#### ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

"Protecting Our  
Environment"

#### QUALITY LIVING

"Safeguarding What is  
Important to Harford  
County Citizens"

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: July 1, 2013

Media Contact: Elizabeth S. Hendrix, Director – 410-638-3389

### Harford County Commission on Disabilities Accepting Nominations for Annual Awards

(Bel Air, MD) - - The Harford County Commission on Disabilities' Employment Committee is now accepting nominations for awards to be presented at its Annual Awards Luncheon marking Disability Employment Awareness Month in October. The luncheon will be held on Thursday, October 24, 2013 at noon at the Maryland Golf and Country Clubs in Bel Air.

"The awards highlight the accomplishments of employees with disabilities in our community and recognizes the employers who give them the opportunity to join the workforce," said Committee Co-Chair Niki Biggs. "The committee also spotlights individuals, businesses, and organizations that promote the hiring of persons with disabilities."

The official theme for October's National Disability Employment Awareness Month, "Because We Are EQUAL to the Task," promotes this highly skilled talent pool that can help employers compete in this challenging economy, and reminds everyone that at work, it's what people CAN do that matters.

Anyone may submit a nomination, be they for a supervisor, friend, patron, acquaintance, or a co-worker. Citizens who know of a person, business, or organization that has truly made an impact are encouraged to fill out a nomination form. Forms can be submitted online through the Commission on Disabilities' website: [www.harfordcountymd.gov/services/disabilities](http://www.harfordcountymd.gov/services/disabilities). Just click on "Nominate a Winner!" It only takes a minute to nominate someone who has worked daily to make a difference, or a business or organization that has gone above and beyond to help change a life.

( more )

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Nominations are now being accepted in six categories:

- Employee of the Year: given to an individual with a disability who has exhibited exceptional ability and determination in entering or re-entering the workforce or maintaining employment;
- Employer of the Year: given to recognize the extent and effectiveness of the nominee's activities in promoting employment opportunities for qualified individuals with disabilities beyond what is mandated by Federal, State and local laws;
- Harford County Student Worker of the Year: presented to a Harford County student enrolled in high school, college, or a vocational training program that has a work component as part of the program;
- Accessibility Award: recognizes businesses, facilities, programs, and services in Harford County that are accessible to all through design and/or inclusive and accommodating practices;
- Ruth Helen Thompson Memorial Community Service Award: given to recognize an individual, organization, agency or facility that is doing an outstanding job in helping to include individuals with disabilities in employment or community activities;
- Media Award: given to an individual or organization who/which has significantly contributed throughout the year with programming, media coverage or sponsorship of advertisements to promote or change attitudes toward individuals with disabilities.

Sponsorship opportunities are also available. For more information or to obtain a nomination form, contact the Harford County Department of Community Services' Disabilities Coordinator, Rachel Harbin at 410-638-3373. The deadline to submit a nomination is September 9, 2013.

The Harford County Commission on Disabilities was established in 1995 to serve as the voice of the disability community in Harford County. Members are appointed by the County Executive, with the approval of the County Council.

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*"Preserving Harford's past. Promoting Harford's future."*